

# Clearwater Township News

MAY 2016

Township Office: 5440 River St., Rapid City, MI • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1, Rapid City, MI 49676  
Phone - 231 331-6249 • FAX 231 331-4375 • E-mail - clerk@clearwatertwp.com • Website - Clearwatertwp.com

## From the Supervisor's Desk

After a late start to our winter, it now appears it is about over. The emerging signs of spring are evident for Clearwater residents to witness. It is also the time our Clearwater Township Newsletter is produced and sent out to our residents. This mailing is geared to provide a quick look at what was accomplished this past year in our township and what new events, activities and projects are in the planning for 2016.

### IMPROVEMENTS IN 2015

This past year Clearwater Township has experienced several new projects and improvements:

**Freedom Park:** Replacement of many sections of split rail fencing, drop off of many loads of wood chips from drop off of August 2<sup>nd</sup> storm damaged trees, rechipping of trails by Seeds workers - about 20% were rechipped.

**Heritage Park:** The park was used by residents to dump off August 2<sup>nd</sup> storm damage. Limbs were ground up for seven days by the Seeds group and transported to be used at Freedom Park.

**Access Sites:** Birch Street, Maple Street, and Cedar Street lost many trees by the August 2<sup>nd</sup> winds. It took over seven weeks to have the storm damage cleared away.

**New River Access at Aarwood Bridge:** An area was cleared for parking and access to the river. During the August 2<sup>nd</sup> storm several trees came down that had to be cleared away.

**Roads:** The second mile of Morrison Road was wedged and capped, relined, and new gravel was added to the road's shoulders. The same procedure was done on West Plum Valley Rd. from Rapid City Rd. to the entrance of Pine Circle Drive.

**Township Cemetery:** The August 2<sup>nd</sup> storm brought down and damaged many trees. It took over a month for the damage to be cleared away.

**Township Hall:** A committee was formed to look at expanding office space by removing the stage, adding restroom space, adding storage area, and redoing the kitchen.

**Heritage Property:** The August 2<sup>nd</sup> storm brought down hundreds of trees on the property. The Forester of Antrim County was hired by the township to manage the cleanup of the property and the sale of the downed timber.

**Five Year Parks & Recreation Plan:** A committee was formed and it created a new five year plan that was approved by the township board.

**Sand Bar Committee:** A committee was formed to search for solutions to problems created for the township and its residents over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July

### WHAT IS HAPPENING IN 2016?

..Paving of the first mile of Aarwood Trail with a wedge and cap.

..Go for a renewal of the townships 1.0 mil road millage.

..Submitting the five year recreation plan to the DNR - the required 1<sup>st</sup> step in applying for DNR grants.

..A continuation of development and planning of the Aarwood Bridge property on the Rapid River.

..Continue the work of the Sandbar Committee.

..Finish the steps started by the Township Hall committee - creating plans and costs.

My seventh year of serving as the Clearwater Township Supervisor is now over.

As in the past, I feel most thankful for the great people I have the privilege of working with. My sincere thanks to all of the individuals who have contributed their time and efforts in service to our township.

Larry Niederstadt, Supervisor

## From the Desk of Guy Molby - Zoning Administrator

If you're planning to do some improvements, you will need a Land use Permit before commencing excavation for, or construction of, any building structure or parking area. You will also need a Land Use Permit to make a structural change, alteration or addition to any existing building or structure or to relocate any building or structure. This includes any shed, playhouse, deck, porch, or lean-to.

If you're planning a garage sale, yard sale, estate sale, etc., remember our zoning ordinance requires that signs should not be displayed more than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the sale. Signs need to be removed forty-eight (48) hours following the end of the sale.

If you have a zoning violation complaint, forms are available at the township office. Land Use permit forms can be found on our website or at the township office. Please call the Zoning Administrator at 231 331-4500 if you have any questions.

## Message From The Township Clerk

**Special Election - May 3, 2016** (Elk Rapids Voters Only)

**August Primary Election - August 2, 2016**

**November General Election - November 8, 2016**

The polling location for all elections is the Clearwater Township Hall, 5440 River St., Rapid City, MI

## Clearwater Township Board

Larry Niederstadt, Supervisor

Kathy Eldridge, Clerk

Barbara Crambell, Treasurer

Grace Beland, Trustee

Dwight Seaman, Trustee

Dawn Kuhns, Assessor

Guy Molby, Zoning Administrator

# Planning Commission Report

During 2015, your Clearwater Township Planning Commission strengthened its continual review of the Zoning Ordinance and Master Plan, by adding that review to the regular meeting agenda, as an item of permanent ongoing business. Having that item of permanent ongoing business always present on the agenda assists the Commission in keeping its attention focused on the fundamental purpose of its own reason for existence.

Work that has gone on for the previous two years to update Article XXVI - Zoning Board of Appeals, to bring it into fuller compliance with the MZEA (PA 110 of 2006 as amended), was finally completed with the Township Board's November 18, 2015 enactment of Amendment 3 to Ordinance 22. Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance are posted on the township website: [www.clearwatertwp.com](http://www.clearwatertwp.com).

Other considerations that have come to the Commission for evaluation, in the past year, include exploring the rationale behind the current minimum dwelling space requirements and the use of auxiliary dwelling space for temporary living

quarters being offered for rent. A matter of great public concern is how to manage the immense crowd of revelers who come to play on the sandbar during the summer weekends, especially the holiday weekends. Over the July 4 weekend of 2015, the Kalkaska Sheriff's department estimated the crowd to be about 10,000 people. Because of the abusive behaviors of a large percentage of the visitors, the township's citizens are demanding solutions. Work is being done by the Sandbar Task Force (an ad hoc citizen committee appointed by the Township Board), to find possible solutions. The Task Force brings its work and suggestions to the Planning Commission for development into appropriate regulatory ordinances that can be enforced. The Commission has undertaken as its first chore, the research needed to establish the

boundaries of enforcement authority, so that an ordinance enacted by the township will be enforceable.

Medical marijuana, as a matter of regulation within the township, is still under deliberation, as the slow progress of our state's legislature and courts, in sorting out the myriad issues surrounding this topic, winds its way toward conclusion. The Planning Commission steadfastly maintains the philosophy that we will not draft any law that directly violates either the state or the federal statutes.

Our community continues to evolve and grow, which means there will always be much work to do for the Planning Commission. Community work is best done in an atmosphere of collaboration, so, please join us at our regular meetings, and provide thoughtful input to assist us in that work. Our regular

meetings are generally held on the first Monday of each month, at 7:00 p.m., in the Little Red Schoolhouse. There are two periods for public comment: one at the beginning of the meeting for matters not on the agenda, and another at the end of the meeting for reflection on the proceedings. We look forward to welcoming you to our deliberations.

The Planning Commission members have township-business-only email addresses, as follow:

Title	Name	Email
Chair	Adam Paizych	<a href="mailto:aparzych.plan.clearwater@gmail.com">aparzych.plan.clearwater@gmail.com</a>
Vice-chair	Tom Backers	<a href="mailto:tbackers.plan.clearwater@gmail.com">tbackers.plan.clearwater@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Tina Norris Fields	<a href="mailto:tfields.plan.clearwater@gmail.com">tfields.plan.clearwater@gmail.com</a>
Commissioner	Len Von See	<a href="mailto:lvonsee.plan.clearwater@gmail.com">lvonsee.plan.clearwater@gmail.com</a>
Township rep	Kathy Eldridge	<a href="mailto:clerk@clearwatertwp.com">clerk@clearwatertwp.com</a>

# Kalkaska Memorial Health Center Annual News

*Submitted by Marianne Ewald, Clearwater Township Representative*

Happy Spring (or Winter?) from Kalkaska Memorial Health Center! As we look back over the last year, we have had several exciting developments and are proud of the relationships we continue to build within the community and individual townships. As some of you may have noticed, KMHC leadership is attending all township meetings on a regular basis in order to keep residents up to date on the hospital and as an opportunity for you all to ask questions. Our EMS service now stations an ambulance in Clearwater, and due to its success, we are pursuing similar arrangements in other townships. In January, KMHC opened its first "Green House", a skilled nursing facility that isn't just

"homelike", it is home. The second home is due to open in the next few weeks. Our Emergency Department now has a full-time physician on staff and is adding a second physician later this Spring. We have also developed a closer relationship with our local school system, with our rehab department providing a part-time athletic trainer to work with high school athletes to help prevent, educate, and address sports related injuries.

Looking forward, we are excited for what the future brings, to continue to best meet the healthcare needs of our wonderful community with high quality, close to home care. KMHC has been closely working with the Village of Kalkaska on how the hospital will be able to

expand in the future, while limiting its footprint. The collaboration with the Village has been very positive and successful. Future expansion will allow for the addition of more private nursing home rooms, modification of current space for better patient flow and care, and a Medical Office Building that will include space to recruit more primary and specialty physicians, Chronic Disease Management Clinic, and Chemotherapy.

We will be mailing and distributing our next Community Benefit Report this Spring and our excited to share with the community once again. Thank you to everyone that has and continues to support KMHC, we are proud to serve Kalkaska.

# Parks & Rec/Heritage Committee Report

O.K. First we had Spring and then Winter again. Crazy weather, but it's time to remind everyone of the wonderful recreational opportunities we have in our township. The half mile walking trail at Heritage Park continues to be a favorite for many people all year long. The trails along the Rapid River in Freedom Park are particularly beautiful in the spring when the Marsh Marigolds are in bloom. Don't miss it!!

Other areas for exercise and recreation include the tennis court located behind the township hall; yoga classes Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8:30 a.m. at the Community Center (AKA Little Red Schoolhouse); Zumba classes at the township hall on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. and Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m. The township hall is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for individuals wishing to walk. Senior cards are held each Thursday evening at the

Little Red Schoolhouse at 6:00 p.m. and senior lunches are held Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. at the township hall. The township hall and the Little Red Schoolhouse are available to rent for private parties. For additional information on any of these activities, call the township hall at 231 331-6249.

The ball fields at Heritage Park will see a lot of action this year. The sign-up for little league teams has taken plan and there will be several teams again this year using the two fields at Heritage Park and the Freedom Park field. There are plans for a baseball team consisting of boys from the area who will be using the baseball field at Heritage Park as their home field. Support these young people whenever you have a chance. Their games are a lot of fun to watch. The Heritage committee has been dissolved and the balance of the funds in their treasury was used to purchase a new piece of climbing equipment for the

playground area at Freedom Park.

Summer will be here again soon and the access sites to Torch Lake along Crystal Beach Rd. are wonderful for swimming. There are picnic pavilions at Birch St. Park on Crystal Beach Rd., Heritage Park and Freedom Park on Rapid City Rd. These are open to the public, and no reservations are taken for their use. When using our parks and access sites, please remember to keep your pets on a leash and clean up after them. Respect our community and help to make it a great place to live.

The Parks and Recreation committee has updated the 2015-2020 Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan for the township. A resolution was passed on September 16, 2015 by the township board accepting the updated plan. The details of the plan are available on the township website, [clearwatertwp.com](http://clearwatertwp.com).

# Clearwater Township Fire Department

8255 Garfield Street,  
Rapid City, Michigan 49676

Your department in 2015 upgraded their Jaws of Life hydraulic rescue tools on both engines. With the old system we were working with it could take up to three firefighters to place tools into operations. In addition operations were limited to within a 100 foot radius of the engine due to hoses connected to power unit mounted on engine. New tools take only 1 firefighter and there is no limit as to how far you can operate from engine, saving manpower requirements and eliminating operations limits.

Equipment Millage funds purchased the Jaws of Life and new supply hoses for both engines.

Replacing some hoses that dated back to 1983.

On the EMS side an agreement was made with Kalkaska EMS to place an Advance Life Support ambulance in the station for 12 hrs per day 7 days a week starting August 1<sup>st</sup> 2015. Having an ambulance in the station is necessitated because we are required to have six medically licensed personnel on staff to provide 24 hr service to keep our Medical First Responder license. The department has been struggling to maintain this number and the medical services that you have come to expect. This service is being furnished at no additional cost to the

residents of Clearwater Township. To upgrade to 24 hr ambulance coverage we need to have sleeping quarters. The department is researching an addition and remodel to the station which will include sleeping quarters along with energy and operations efficiencies.

We are still having problems with homes not being numbered and visible at night. The best way to reduce the time for emergency responders to find you is to make sure that your driveway and home is marked with a highly reflective 911 sign, readable from both directions. Private roads also need to be marked with a reflective signs.

## 2015 Run Report

336 Total Runs (9% Increase over 2014)  
17 Fire Runs • 206 EMS Runs  
16 Motor Vehicle Accidents No Injuries  
6 Motor Vehicle Accidents with Injuries  
81 Other/Misc.

With the increase in runs and declining membership over the last decade it has been necessary for departments to help each other out. In 2015 your fire department received aid 19 times, and gave aid 16 times.

### Apparatus Responding to Incidents

5 Engine 1	30 Runs
5 Engine 2	94 Runs
5 Rescue	199 Runs
5 Utility/Brush	55 Runs
5 Tanker 1	13 Runs
5 Tanker 2	2 Runs

## ASSESSOR'S REPORT

If you own and occupy your home or vacant and contiguous property by June 1, you are eligible to receive the Principal Residence Exemption. By receiving this exemption, you are exempt from having to pay the 18 mills of school operating tax. If you notice you are not receiving the exemption and you are entitled to it, contact Dawn Kuhns, assessor at 231-409-1827.

The Veteran's Exemption will exempt all property taxes for veterans for their Principal Residence that meet the following criteria:

Honorably discharged

100% totally and permanently disabled or determined to be unemployable by the Veterans Administration or unmarried spouse.

Michigan Resident

Own the property for which the exemption is being claimed and it is used as homestead.

This exemption can be granted by the March Board of Review, July Board of Review or December Board of Review. The application must be completed and returned with the letter from the Veterans Administration stating the qualify factors.

## Clearwater Township Fire Department Accepting applications for the following positions

### Medical First Responder

This is a non firefighting position. Medical First Resonders provide basic life support and patient assesment before arrival of advance medical personnel.

### Firefighter

Firefighters are primary responsible for responding to fires, accidents and other incedents where risks are poised to life and property.

*Must be at least 18 years old • High School Graduate or GED*

*Have a valid Michigan Drivers License*

*Applications can be found at the Township Office at  
5440 River Street Rapid City, MI.*

*Successful applicants must past a pre-employment physical, drug screen and background check. Please note on your application to which position you are applying for.*

### NOTE:

*Meetings held 1st 3 Mondays of the month 7pm  
8255 Garfield Street Rapid City, MI.*

*Training for both postions will be provided*

**Every 26 Hours** - Your Fire Department is responding to someone's of emergency.  
**Busiest time of the day** - 2 PM to 7 PM 36% of all calls

### Burn Permit Info.

[www.dnr.statemi.us/burnpermits/](http://www.dnr.statemi.us/burnpermits/) or 866-922-2876

## Gone, But Not Forgotten

Community Members who have passed on since April, 2015

Donna Palmer  
Gale L. Young  
John Sulock  
Inez Harger  
Cliff Thompson  
Ken Waichunas  
Charles E. Hansen  
Sarah M. Goslyn  
Ford Robinson  
Clyde Ford  
Judith Hoff

Sophie I. Thomas  
Anna Steinka  
Harold Wildfong  
John A. Dufermont  
Roger K. Day  
Timothy G. Johnson  
Patricia L. Bingham  
Charles Forman  
Brad Burnham Sr.  
William Bricker  
Andrew Kranz

Mary Jane Clifton  
Annette Wolschon  
Donald Sprague  
Beverly Newkirk  
Linda Scarlett  
Vera Crane  
Jeanette Albert  
Dorothy Sprague  
Donald E. Vance  
Ned A. Deater

# Clearwater Township

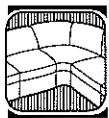
P.O. Box 1

Rapid City, MI 49676

Ph: 231-331-6249

Fx: 231-331-4375

www.clearwatertwp.com



## CLEARWATER TOWNSHIP CLEAN-UP DAY

Clearwater Township will hold a clean-up day on Saturday, May 7, 2016 from 7:00 a.m. until noon.

Residents may take their trash items to American Waste Transfer Station located at 3947 US 131 North in Kalkaska, south of Seeley Rd. and across from Michigan Cat.

Residents may bring one pickup load (4'x8'x4') per household.

Proof of residency is needed (either last property tax notice or current electric bill). Anything brought from another township will be subject to a penalty fee and could result in loss of privileges in future cleanups. **ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:** Household rubbish, building materials (nothing over 6'), household furniture (including chairs, couches, mattresses), appliances, \*refrigerators that are tagged "freon free" and scrap metal.

THE FOLLOWING WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED: Car tires and batteries.

**UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS:** cans of paint, rocks, chunks of concrete, asphalt, brush, yard waste, and all hazardous waste such as chemicals, herbicides, and insecticides.

**DO NOT BRING ANYTHING TO SITE BEFORE MAY 7<sup>th</sup> AT 7:00 A.M.**

**WITH SPRING HERE, THIS IS AN EXCELLENT TIME FOR ALL OF US TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CLEANING UP OUR PROPERTY AND ELIMINATING SOME OF OUR EXCESS "STUFF".**

## CLEARWATER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2016-2017

**TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETINGS ARE HELD ON WEDNESDAY AT 7:00 P.M. ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:**

April 20, 2016 • May 18, 2016 • JUNE 15, 2016  
JULY 20, 2016 • AUGUST 17, 2016 • SEPTEMBER 21, 2016  
OCTOBER 19, 2016 • NOVEMBER 16, 2016 • DECEMBER 21, 2016  
JANUARY 18, 2017 • FEBRUARY 15, 2017 • MARCH 15, 2017

### ANNUAL MEETING:

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017 AT 9:00 A.M.

### PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

**BEGIN AT 7:00 P.M. ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:**

April 4, 2016 • May 2, 2016 • June 6, 2016  
June 27, 2016 • August 1, 2016 • August 29, 2016  
October 3, 2016 • November 7, 2016 • December 5, 2016  
January 2, 2017 • February 6, 2017 • March 6, 2017

### ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETINGS

**BEGIN AT 7:00 P.M. ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:**

April 11, 2016 • July 11, 2016

October 10, 2016 • January 9, 2017

ALL OF THE ABOVE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE CLEARWATER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CENTER, 5407 RIVER STREET, RAPID CITY, MI.

The Clearwater Township Board will provide necessary and reasonable auxiliary aids and services such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon seven (7) days' notice to the Clearwater Township Board. Individuals requiring such service should contact the Clearwater Township office at:

231 331-6249 or P.O. Box 1, Rapid City, MI 49676

Kathy Eldridge, Clearwater Township Clerk